

# ECUADOR



- High altitude in capital city
- Volcanic activity
- Economic turbulence
  - “Dollarized” currency
- Substantial oil resources
- Rich agricultural areas



# Ecuador: Environmental Issues

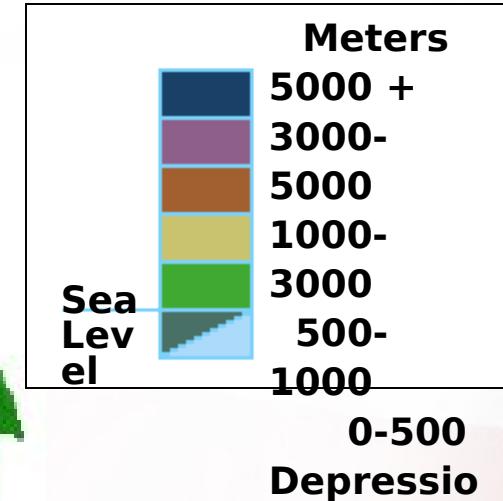
- Topography
- Climate

Tropical along coast, becoming cooler inland at higher elevations; tropical in Amazonian jungle lowlands



Coastal plain (costa), inter-Andean central highlands (sierra), and flat to rolling eastern jungle (oriente)

*lowest point: Pacific Ocean*



# Ecuador: Environmental Issues

- Industry
  - Mining concentrated in southern provinces
  - Oil production in eastern Amazon region
  - Agriculture
- Water
  - Surface water contaminated with raw sewage
  - Mercury contamination in some surface waters near gold mining operations

# Ecuador: Environmental Issues

- Food
  - Mercury contamination of freshwater fish due to gold mining
  - Lead contamination of produce
- Air
  - Localized air pollution near urban and industrial centers – tin and antimony smelters
  - Volcanic ash falls near Quito
- Soil
  - Localized contamination near industry and waste disposal sites

# Ecuador: Environmental Issues

- Greatest short-term environmental health risks
  - Water contaminated with raw sewage or runoff
- Greatest long-term environmental health risks
  - Chronic ingestion of mercury in contaminated water and food

# Ecuador: Diseases of operational Importance

- High-risk country
- Diseases of greatest risk
  - Food and water-borne: bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A
  - Vector-borne: malaria, dengue fever

# Ecuador: Diseases of operational Importance

- Diseases of potential risk
  - Food and water-borne: brucellosis, cholera, protozoal diarrhea, typhoid/paratyphoid fever
  - Vector-borne: Bartonellosis, Chagas disease, leishmaniasis, onchocerciasis, plague, yellow fever
  - Sexually transmitted: gonorrhea/chlamydia, hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS
  - Water contact: leptospirosis
  - Respiratory: tuberculosis
  - Animal contact: rabies